

Washington, DC -- U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan, R-13th District, has teamed up with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to help find Florida's missing children. Buchanan announced today that congressional envelopes leaving his congressional office will include photos and descriptions of missing children from Southwest Florida as well as some of the most endangered missing children from the entire state.

"Every day, thousands of children are reported missing," said Buchanan. "Recently, in Manatee County, a resourceful young man was able to free himself from his captor, call his parents, and return home safely. But many missing children are never found. To help find Florida's missing children, I will include pictures and descriptions of missing children from my District and I urge my colleagues in the House and Senate to do the same."

NCMEC has hundreds of photo partners that already work with the non-profit organization's Photo Distribution Program to reach up to 79 million homes weekly with the photographs of missing children. For a cost of \$30 dollars for a box of 500 envelopes, Buchanan will join them by including the information on plain-faced, letter size envelopes.

"As the father of two boys, I can not think of a better use of taxpayer dollars than to help ensure the safe return of missing children," said Buchanan. "The best way to help find a missing child is to look at photographs of missing children and report any information about those children. One in six missing kids featured by photo partners nationwide are recovered as a direct result of the photograph."

Buchanan is a Member of the Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus. The Caucus organizes Members to: advocate policies on behalf of missing and exploited children; hold briefings for Members and staff in coordination with many child advocacy organizations including the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and others; and host other activities aimed at increasing awareness on how to best protect children and families in Congressional districts across the country.

Information about missing children should be reported to NCMEC's toll-free Hotline: 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678).